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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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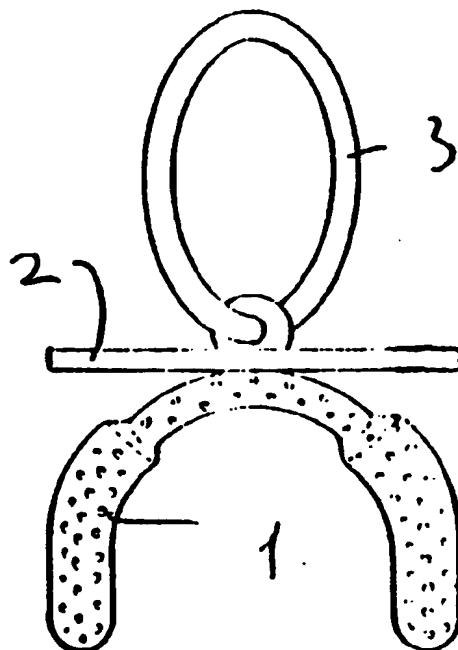
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⑰ Gum massaging device.

⑰ A gum massaging device comprising a semi circular horseshoe like portion (1). At the centre thereof a plate like disk (2) is provided to prevent the swallowing of the device by the baby.

Fig. 1a



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GUM MASSAGING DEVICE

The present invention relates to a massage device and more particularly to a massage device for infants, especially useful for the massaging of the gums during the teething period.

It is known that during the teething period infants require and are provided with different objects to bite on. Such objects have to be of sufficient size to avoid or eliminate the danger of being swallowed by the baby. Due to their relatively large size, the conventional objects generally used are inconvenient and moreover not the whole area of the gums requiring treatment is massaged by the conventional devices.

It is thus the object of the present invention to provide a massaging device which will be small to fit the baby's mouth.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a device which will massage the whole upper and lower gums simultaneously.

According to the invention there is provided a gum massaging device comprising a substantially semi circular, horseshoe like part at the centre of which is connected a plate like portion to prevent the swallowing of the device by the baby.

In a preferred embodiment a pacifier (dummy) is held within the space defined by the horseshoe curvature.

The invention will now be described with reference to the annexed drawings in which:

Figs. 1a, 1b and 1c are three configurations of the device, and

Figs. 2a, 2b and 2c are side views thereof.

Figs. 3a, 3b and 3c illustrate the preferred embodiments of the device, while

Fig. 4 is a side view thereof.

As can be seen from the accompanying drawings the device comprises a horseshoe like portion 1 which is provided, as common with such devices, small protrusions to assist the massage effect. At the centre of portion 1 and at the convex side of the horseshoe bow a protection disc 2 is provided which prevents the swallowing of the device. This disc 2 will mostly be outside the mouth of the baby when the device is in use. A gripping ring 3 is provided to assist the holding of the device, for retrieval by an attendant nurse or nanny.

In the preferred embodiment, a pacifier 5 is held within the bow defined by the horseshoe curvature. Due to the relatively small size of the device it can be held within a baby's mouth which allows the massaging of the entire area of the gums.

In the practical embodiment the pacifier is held in the mouth of a baby, the sucking movement will cause the "horseshoe" portion to move back and

forth massaging very thoroughly the gums. The device will not be swallowed by the baby due to the conventional protection disc 4. Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly, such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the scope of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

Claims

15 1. A gum massaging device comprising a substantially semi circular, horseshoe like part at the centre of which is connected a plate like portion to prevent the swallowing of the device by the baby.

20 2. A gum massaging device as claimed in claim 1, characterised thereby that the horseshoe like portion is provided with small protrusions.

3. A gum massaging device as claimed in claim 1 whereby a pacifier is held within the space defined by the horseshoe curvature.

25 4. Gum massaging device, substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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FIG. 1a

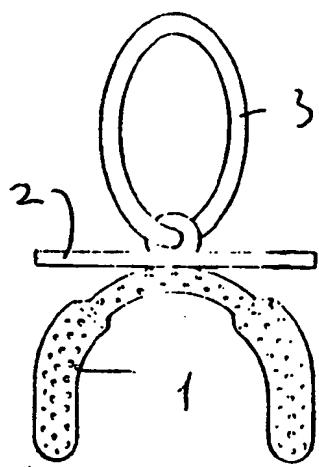


FIG. 1b

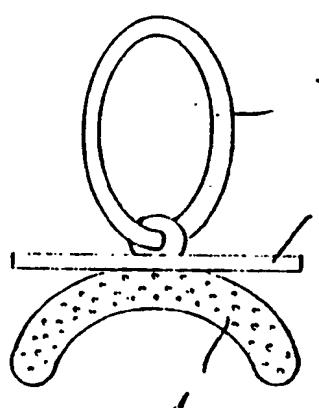


FIG. 1c

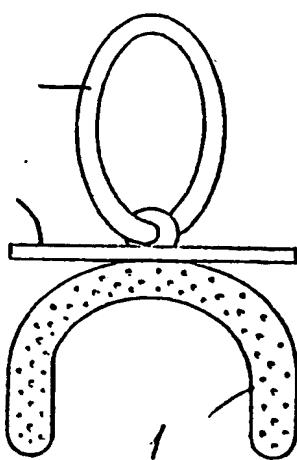


FIG. 2a

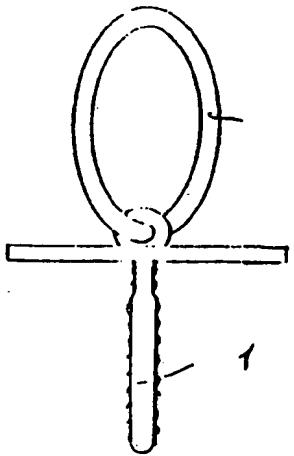


FIG. 2b

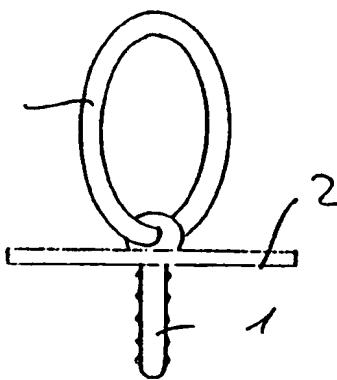


FIG. 2c

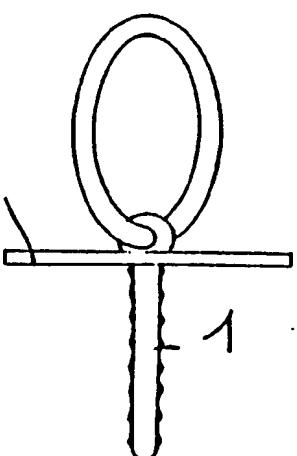


FIG. 3a

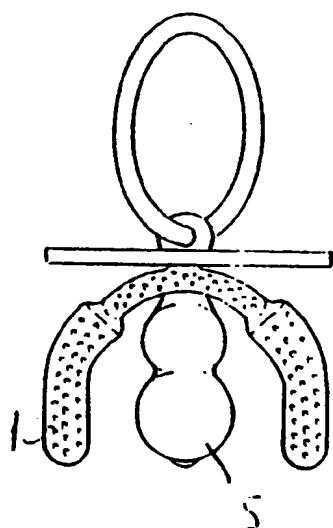


FIG. 3b

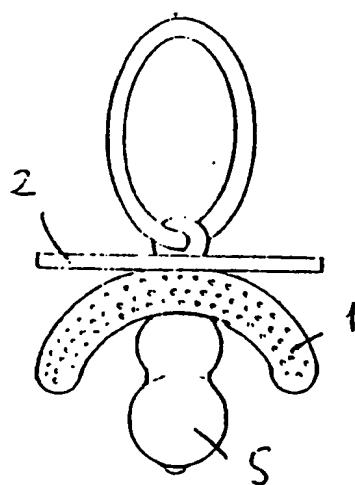


FIG. 3c

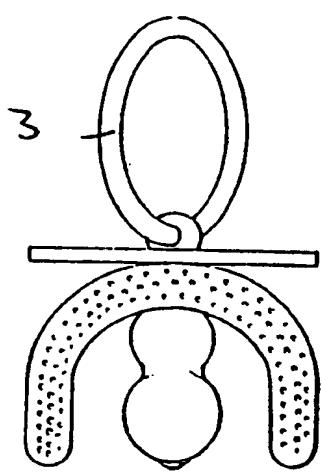
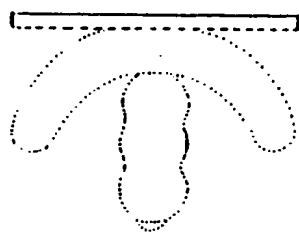
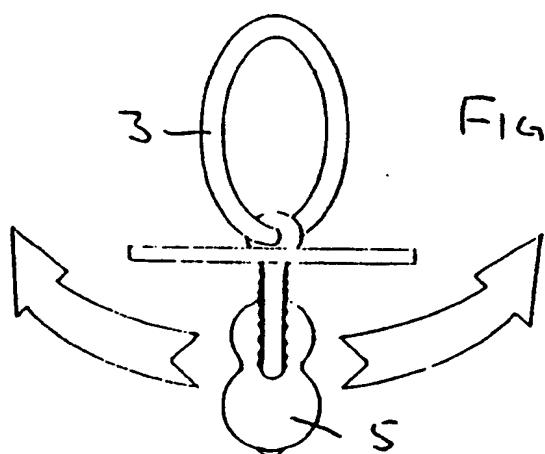


FIG. 4





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 10 2915

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 5)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
X	DE-C- 70 949 (BOSCH) * Whole document *	1	A 61 J 17/02						
Y	---	2-4							
Y	GB-A-2 067 069 (SAKAKIBARA) * Column 1, lines 54-61; figures 1,2 *	2-4							
A	FR-A-2 329 259 (BLOMSTEDT HANDELSBOLAG) * Figures 7-9 *	1-3							
A	US-A-3 187 746 (GERBER) * Figures 1-6 *	1,3							

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)						
			A 61 J						
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>09-05-1990</td> <td>GODOT T.G.L.</td> </tr> </table> <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	09-05-1990	GODOT T.G.L.
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